

# City of Bloomington Utilities

Water and Wastewater Utilities



# Utility Overview

- Provide Basic Services.
- Treating and Distributing Water.
- Collecting and Treating Wastewater.
- Maintaining Stormwater System.



# History of Water Shortages

- People new to area may not know that Bloomington has had a long history of water shortages.
- Caused by weather conditions.
- Lack of natural water supplies.
- Improper location of water storage.



# Milestones In Water History

- 1818 Monroe County founded.
- 1860 Cisterns Built On Courthouse Square.
  - Contaminated by human and animal wastes.
- 1885 Courthouse well drilled 2670 ft – dry.
- 1891 Water Franchise established.



# Milestones In Water History

1894 Plant placed in receivership.

1898 plant sold to city.

1899 and 1902 plant shut down  
by lack of water.

1911 University Lake built.

1922 plant shut down by lack  
of water three days per week.



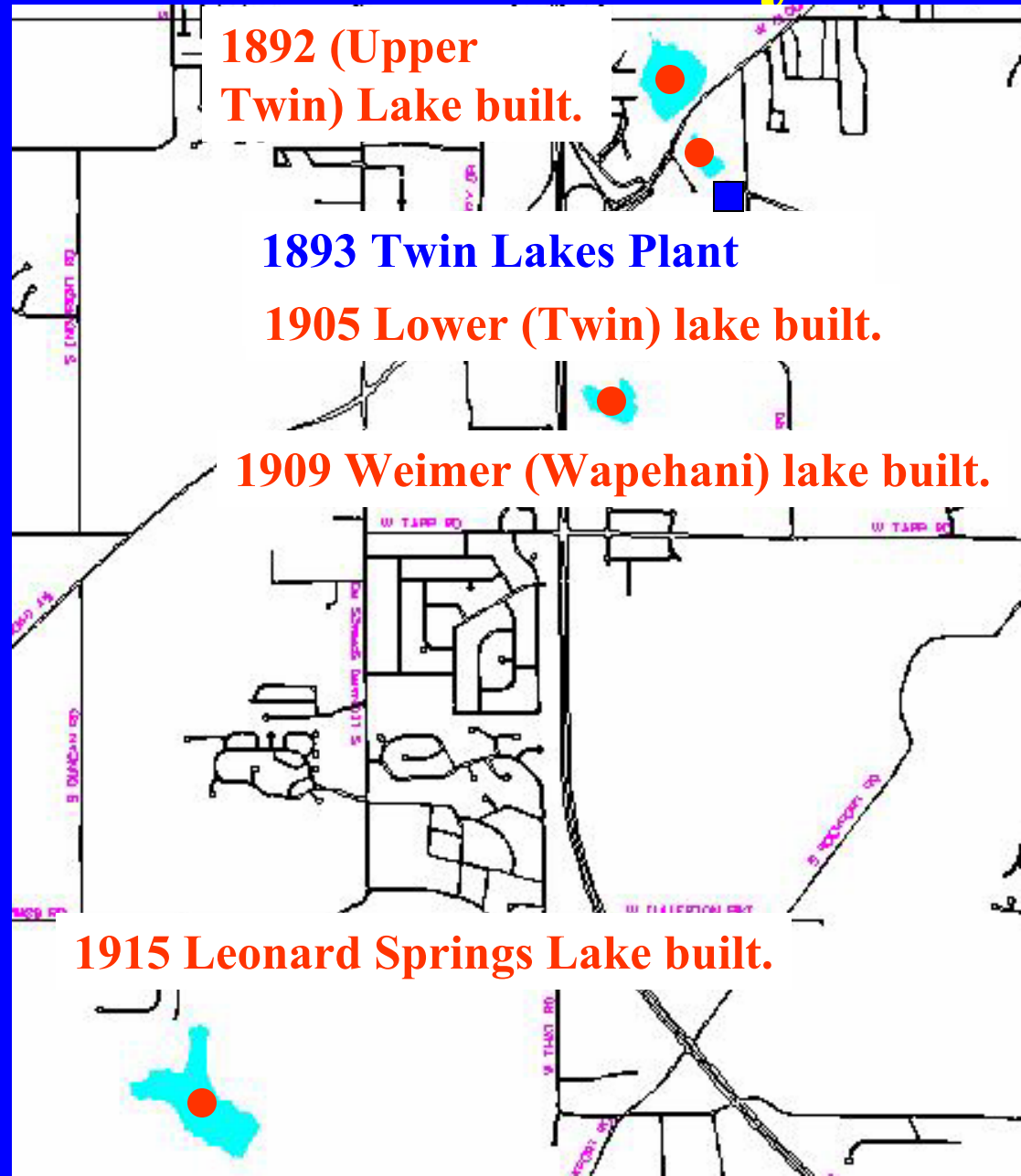
**1892 (Upper  
Twin) Lake built.**

**1893 Twin Lakes Plant**

**1905 Lower (Twin) lake built.**

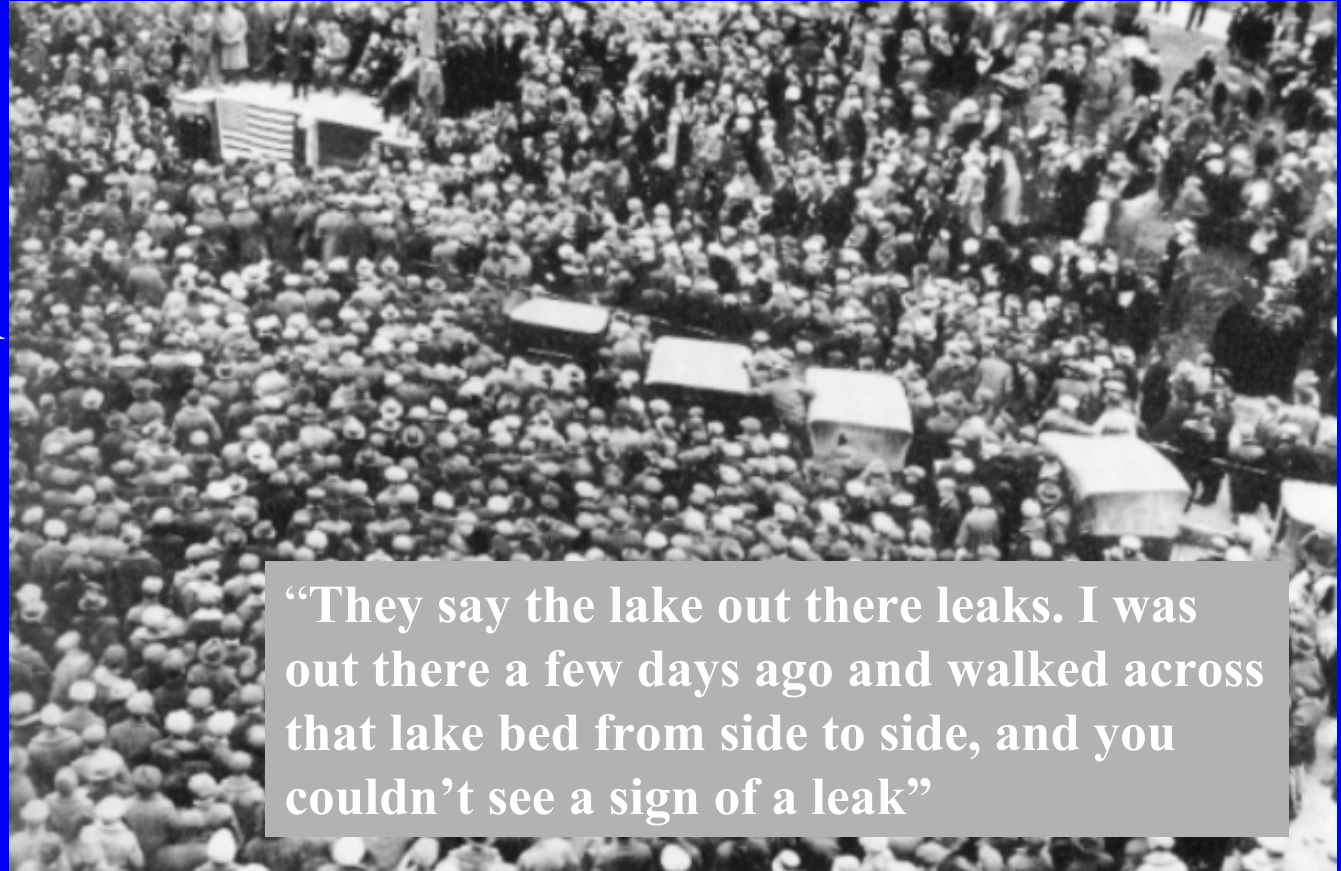
**1909 Weimer (Wapehani) lake built.**

**1915 Leonard Springs Lake built.**



# Milestones In Water History

- Great debate whether to build new plant on East or continue on west side of town.
- 1924 private water company formed.



**March 17, 1924 – 8,000 to 10,000 meet on Square**

# Milestones In Water History

- 1925 Griffy Lake built and plant begins operation.
- 1939 City buys back Water Company





# Milestones In Water History



On Bean Blossom Lake, water skiers now frolic where trout used to graze. Bloomington now has all the water it needs to drink and wash with, with plenty left over to play.



Beth Klamer, 4, accepts a lemon drop from Mayor Lemon, who won the lake for the city.

## Town With a Homemade Lake

Long plagued by a critical water shortage, the citizens of Bloomington, Indiana, brought billions of gallons to their doorsteps. Now they're enjoying an unexpected dividend.

By JEROME ELLISON

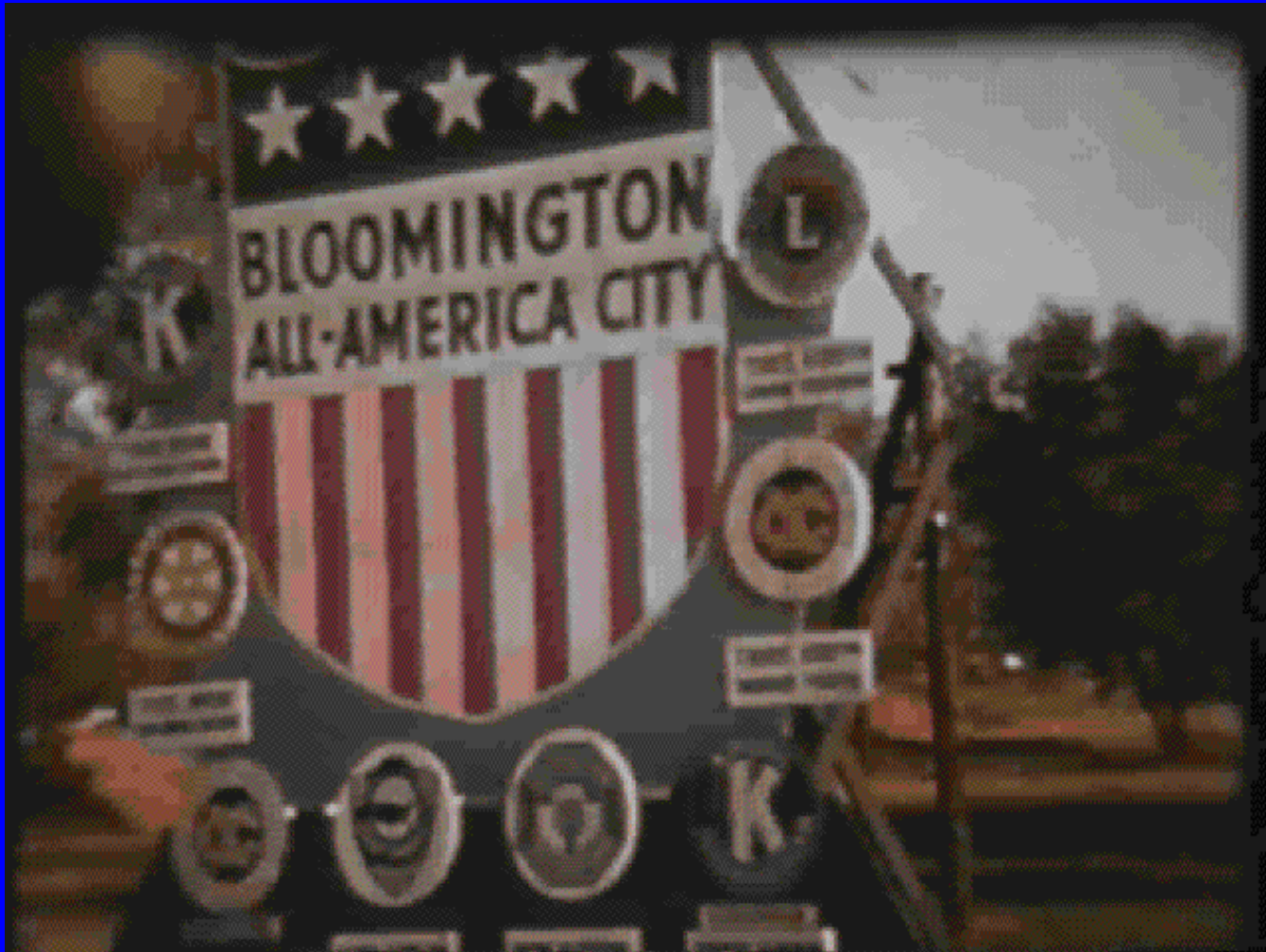
- 1953 Lake Lemon built
- 1954 Griffy Plant expanded



Part of Bean Blossom's scenery is provided by ponds from nearby Indiana University. From left: Sherry Peitz, Nancy Griser, Marilyn Du Valle and Brenda Ely.

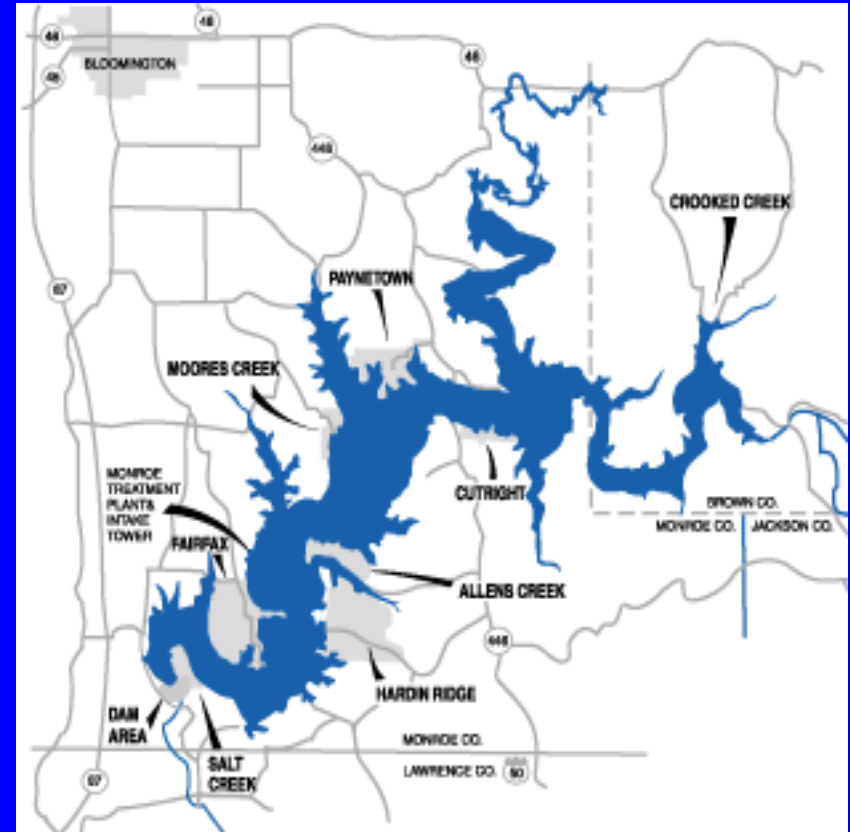


# Milestones In Water History



# Milestones In Water History

- 1965 Lake Monroe built.
- 1967 Monroe Plant began operation.
- 1990 Monroe Plant expanded.
- 1996 Griffy Plant retired.



# Water Treatment

- Monroe Water Plant
  - Capacity of 24 MGD
  - Serves Bloomington and Surrounding Area
  - Treat 5 Billion Gallons per Year
  - 22,300 Customers



# Water Master Plan

- Estimate future water requirements.
- Evaluate adequacy of existing water supply and treatment facilities.
- Develop improvements program.
- Prepare cost estimates including financial impact.
- Conduct public meetings and information program.





# Wastewater History

- First municipal effort at sewage disposal was construction of a central cesspool in late 1800's.
- Quickly became overloaded and contaminated water supply.
- Sewer Ordinance April 27, 1909
  - prohibited outhouses within 10 feet of a sidewalk unless a pit had been dug underneath the structure.
- First wastewater plant built around 1910 and operated until about 1935.



# Wastewater History

- 1935 Winston Thomas treatment plant was completed. It provided primary and secondary treatment of 3.75 MGD.
- In 1940 40% of city's homes did not have flush toilets but used outhouses.
- Post war development rapidly surpassed Winston Thomas capabilities.
- A 1949 study ranked the city's sewage facilities worst in the state.



# Wastewater History

- Bloomington was placed under an order by the state to cease polluting streams in 1954.
- Plant upgrades were completed in 1958, adding 24 miles of new sewer mains, and increasing plant capacity to 7 MGD.





# Wastewater Treatment

- Blucher Poole WWTP
  - Built in 1968
  - Upgraded in 1998
  - Capacity of 5 MGD
  - Currently Treats 4 MGD



# Wastewater Treatment

- Dillman WWTP
  - Built in 1982
  - Process of Upgrading
  - Capacity of 15 MGD
  - Currently Treats 12 MGD



# Stormwater Utility

- Established Sept 1998 (Ordinance 98-29 § 2, 1998).
- Part of Wastewater Utility.
- Dedicated funds from user fees.
- Long term program.
  - Half to O&M and neighborhood projects
  - Half to finance capital program
- Jurisdiction set to municipal boundary.



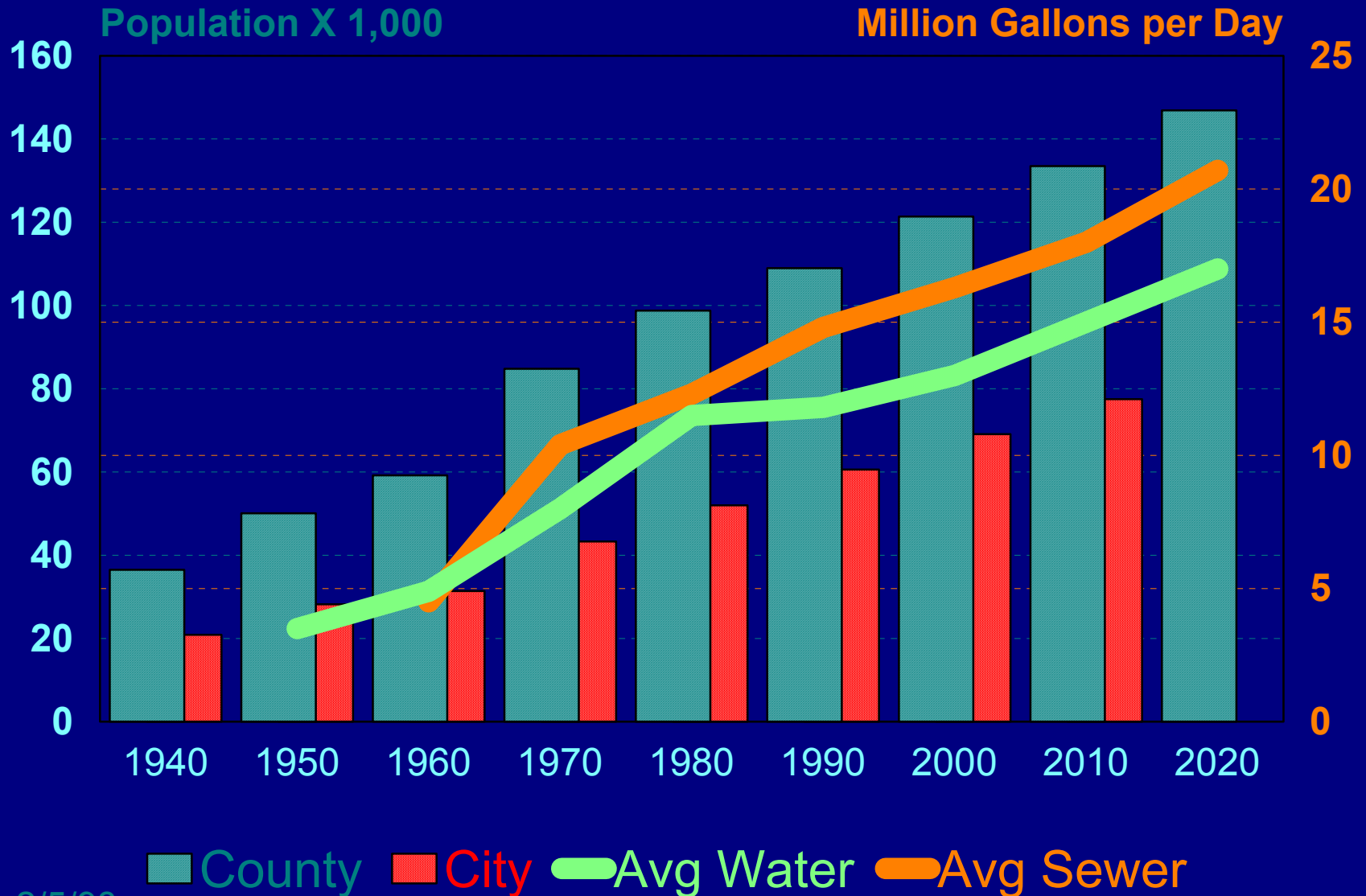
# Utility Services Board

- Formed in 1972 after petition drive by League of Women Voters.
- Established to set policy of Utilities in a manner consistent with general city policies.
- Intended to coordinate utility matters with all governmental activities of the city.





# City of Bloomington Population Versus Water Consumption



2/5/98

# 50 Year History Of Droughts

- 1947 - 1948
- 1951 - 1953
- 1964 - 1965
- 1988